

**Huntington Station Post Office Puts Hybrid Vehicle on the Streets
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Huntington Station Post

Huntington Station, NY – On Friday, Rep. Steve Israel announced \$712,500 in federal funds to conduct a pilot project bringing fuel-efficient hybrid vehicles to Long Island. Israel was joined by Ken Hale, U.S. Postal Service Long Island District Manager/Executive-In-Charge, who unveiled a new hybrid delivery truck now in service in Huntington as part of a United States Postal Service test project.

“The United States Postal Service maintains the largest civilian vehicle fleet in the world with about 221,000 vehicles in service. If the federal government starts to convert these vehicles to alternatively-fueled hybrid vans and trucks, we will save millions of dollars in fuel costs and create new demand for energy-efficient development and manufacturing,” said Rep. Steve Israel. “I’ve secured more than \$700,000 so that we can lead the way right here on Long Island. I appreciate the support of the Postal Service and NYSERDA for this game-changing effort.”

Francis J. Murray, Jr., President and CEO of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) praised Congressman Steve Israel for securing this funding for Long Island. “This funding will help the U.S. Postal Service demonstrate the energy and environmental benefits of hybrid-electric delivery vehicles. NYSERDA applauds Rep. Israel’s leadership in providing the resources necessary to encourage the use of this technology, which will ultimately help Long Island’s air quality by reducing vehicle emissions on postal routes.”

“The Postal Service thanks Congressman Israel for his strong support,” said Ken Hale. “We look forward to conducting this test and continuing our efforts in being an energy conservation leader.”

The funds secured by Rep. Israel will help expand the use of the trucks like the one on display today locally and test their viability for use across the country. The funding will go to NYSERDA to develop the vehicle pilot project for Long Island.

The United States Postal Service maintains the largest civilian vehicle fleet in the world with approximately 221,000 total vehicles driving more than 1.2 billion miles a year and using 121 million gallons of fuel. An average postal delivery truck will travel approximately 17 miles per day.

According to a study from the University of Delaware, the delivery fleet alone drives an estimated 819 million miles per year, with an average fuel economy of 10 miles per gallon.

The same study shows that the USPS is significantly impacted by changes in energy costs, noting that an increase of 1 cent per gallon of gasoline could increase overall USPS annual expenditures by \$8 million. As a result, the postal service has the potential for dramatic decreases in their costs with the use of hybrid alternatively-fueled vehicles.

The vehicle in service in Huntington uses a parallel-type diesel-electric hybrid architecture with its hybrid electric systems developed by Eaton Corporation. It incorporates an electric motor/generator between the output of an automated clutch and input of the transmission. The system recovers energy normally lost during braking and stores the energy in batteries. When electric torque is blended with engine torque, the stored energy is used to improve fuel economy and vehicle performance for a given speed or used to operate the vehicle with electric power only. The system can also be designed to provide energy for use during engine-off worksite operations, further reducing noise, while providing between 30 to 60 percent improvement in fuel economy and similar reductions in harmful emissions.

Rep. Israel serves on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water.